

## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: BO'NESS FORESHORE FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME**  
**Meeting: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 13 NOVEMBER 2007**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Bo'ness Flood Prevention Scheme (BFPS) was confirmed by Scottish Ministers on 3 August 2007. Members will recall that at the Policy and Resources Committee on 14 August 2007, approval was sought to proceed with the final stage in the statutory process of serving notice on affected parties and placing an advert in appropriate newspapers.
- 1.2 At the meeting on 14 August 2007 Members asked that consideration be given to extending BFPS to include Blackness. A properly formulated Flood Prevention Scheme requires quite lengthy processes and procedures to be followed in submitting required information at various stages and ultimately obtaining the necessary approvals. The geographic extent of the scheme is established at a very early stage in the process, i.e. within the first year of the five year application period to approval for BFPS. It would therefore not be possible, at this late stage of the approval process, to modify/extend BFPS to include Blackness.
- 1.3 During the initial appraisal of the potential estuary flooding within the area it was determined that the 3Km of foreshore between the end of the existing Bo'ness shore protection works and Blackness had relatively higher shore ground levels and had no properties, thus, none requiring to be protected. There is, therefore, no link, in shore protection terms, between Bo'ness and Blackness. Another material consideration relative to Flood Prevention Schemes obtaining approval is that they must have a positive Cost Benefit Analysis factor greater than 1.0. At Blackness itself with only a few houses being directly affected/damaged by estuary surge tidal flooding it is extremely unlikely that the appropriate Cost Benefit Analysis would produce a factor greater than 1.0 required for approval by The Scottish Government.
- 1.4 The only way of including Blackness within the extent of the Scheme itself would effectively require starting again and creating a new flood prevention scheme for Bo'ness and Blackness. Such a step would delay the Scheme for at least 2-3 years and due to potential Cost Benefit Analysis problems outlined in 1.3 above there is no guarantee that the Blackness element of the scheme would be approved for inclusion.

#### **2.0 CURRENT POSITION**

- 2.1 Tenders were issued for BFPS on Monday 24 September 2007 with a return date of Friday 2 November 2007.
- 2.2 The evaluation process and tender acceptance of the contract for Bo'ness Flood Prevention Scheme will require to be undertaken following the return of tenders on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2007.

- 2.3 A report will be sent to the Scottish Government for consideration and confirmation of the Tenders before award is made by Falkirk Council, as this scheme is 80% government funded.
- 2.4 The programmed completion date for the contract of September 2010 calls for the contractor to start on site in March 2008 to maximise the available time for construction works due to the requirements outlined in the Construction Method Statement agreed by SNH and the Scottish Government.

### **3.0 CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 In order to meet the required timescales it is therefore recommended that this contract is accepted by the Director of Development Services under delegated powers, and the details of the award reported to members at the meeting of this Committee in January 2008.
- 3.2 I intend taking a report to a future Environment and Heritage Committee which will set out our current actions and proposals to mitigate any flooding which occurred in the Council area. Blackness along with other towns and villages at risk of flooding from the estuary will feature in this report.

### **4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**Members are asked to:**

- 4.1 **Confirm that Bo'ness Flood Prevention Scheme proceed in its present form.**
- 4.2 **Grant the Director of Development Services delegated powers, in respect of the contract for Bo'ness Foreshore Flood Prevention Scheme contract, to accept the lowest economically advantageous tender.**
- 4.3 **Request that the Director of Development Services report the outcome of the procurement to the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee in January 2008.**

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**Director of Development Services**  
5 November 2007

Contact Officer: Robert McMaster, Ext 4865

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None